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Commission on Population and Development
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required.

In accordance with its decision 2004/2, the Commission, immediately following the closure of its thirty-ninth session, held the first meeting of its fortieth session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairman and other officers of the Commission.

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2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council requires that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

On the recommendation of the Commission at its thirty-ninth session, the Council, in its decision 2006/233, approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the fortieth session of the Commission.

At its thirtieth session, the Commission decided to authorize its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions on a yearly basis. At its thirty-ninth session, in its resolution 2006/1, the Commission requested its Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation of its annual sessions. The Commission has before it the report of the Bureau on its intersessional meetings.

Documentation

Provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2007/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2007/L.1)

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2007/2)

3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development

In its resolution 49/128, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, the General Assembly decided that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

In the terms of reference of the Commission,[1] which were endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1995/55, the Commission was called upon to adopt a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year programme. That work programme, inter alia, would provide a framework for assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action. In its report on its twenty-eighth session, which the Council took note of in its decision 1995/236, the Commission called for the preparation of annual reports on a selected topic of the Programme of Action and a report on the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action to be prepared quinquennially.[2]

In its resolution S-21/2 of 2 July 1999, the General Assembly adopted the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

In its decision 2005/1, the Commission reaffirmed that the special theme for the fortieth session of the Commission in 2007 shall be "The changing age structures of populations and their implications for development".

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 7* (E/1995/27), annex I, sect. I.A.

[2] Ibid., sect. III.

In its resolution 60/135, entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing", the General Assembly invited the functional commissions of the Council to integrate the issues of population and individual ageing into their work in order to promote implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action.[3]

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, focusing on the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development (E/CN.9/2007/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development (E/CN.9/2007/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2007/5)

4. General debate on national experience in population matters: the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development

The Commission has concluded that it would be useful to make provision in its agenda for a general debate on population matters relating to the topic of the Commission's focus, during which views and national experiences could be exchanged.

5. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission suggested that the work programme, inter alia, continue to give high priority to the monitoring of population trends and policies; undertake the biennial preparation of estimates and projections of global, national, urban, rural and city populations; conduct studies on population and related development policies; prepare studies on interactions of population change; carry out analyses of mortality; contribute to and coordinate in-depth studies on fertility, nuptiality and reproductive rights and health, including family planning; undertake studies to improve the understanding of the causes and consequences of internal migration and international migration; increase public awareness of and information exchange on population and development issues; make the necessary arrangements for coordinating the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action; and provide technical cooperation support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition in the light of the economic and social problems that those countries faced at that time.[4]

The Commission reaffirmed the content of the work programme at its twenty-ninth session (Commission resolution 1996/1).

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[3] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

At its thirtieth session, the Commission stressed the importance of continuing the basic work of the Population Division of the Secretariat on the crucial underpinnings of population estimates and projections; basic population trends and issues, including fertility, mortality, migration and patterns of rural and urban population change; the evolution of population policies; and understanding of the links between population and development (Commission resolution 1997/3).

At its thirty-seventh session, the Commission reaffirmed the importance of the work of the Population Division in providing the United Nations system and the international community with comprehensive and scientifically sound inputs for the analysis of progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on population and development set in the outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences, especially the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (Commission resolution 2004/1).

The Commission further emphasized that the Population Division should continue basic work on population estimates and projections; patterns of rural and urban population change; the analysis of international migration; the implications of the changing age structure of the population for development; the increasing diversity of fertility and mortality levels and trends; the interrelations among population, resources, the environment and development; and the evolution of population policies, applying a gender perspective in this regard (Commission resolution 2004/1).

As indicated in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007,[5] the objective of the subprogramme in population is to promote policy debate on current and foreseeable population issues at the national and international levels with a view to enabling Member States to effectively address population and development issues. Paragraph 7.12 of the biennial programme plan designated the Population Division as the body responsible for the subprogramme, and mandated the Division to achieve this objective by (a) providing substantive servicing to United Nations bodies, especially to the Commission on Population and Development, and assessing progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; (b) facilitating the discussion of key or emerging population issues by convening meetings of experts or government representatives; (c) preparing comprehensive studies on population issues and population trends relating to fertility, mortality, international and internal migration, HIV/AIDS, urbanization, population growth, population ageing, population prospects, population policy and population in relation to development; (d) disseminating population information and policy-relevant findings in the area of population, particularly through the Population Division website; and (e) building capacity to address population issues at the national level through workshops or the dissemination of technical material, such as manuals and software.

[5] A/59/6/Rev.1.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2007/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2006 (E/CN.9/2007/7)

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-first session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

The attention of the Commission is drawn to Council resolutions 1979/41 and 1981/83 on the control and limitation of documentation. In addition, the Commission is reminded that the Council, in paragraph 1 (j) of resolution 1982/50 on the revitalization of the Council, urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the provisions of the decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation.

The attention of the Commission is also drawn to paragraph 4 of the annex to Council resolution 1982/50, in which the Secretary-General recommended that (a) the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the General Assembly be streamlined in order to enable the subsidiary bodies to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them; (b) the Council and the Assembly continue to review the provisional agendas for their subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency in the overall request for documentation and its orderly consideration at the intergovernmental level, taking fully into account the medium-term plan and the programme budget; and (c) in so doing, the Council and the Assembly also take into account the need for the consolidation of items and documentation for their subsidiary machinery.

Furthermore, in its resolution 1981/83, the Council instructed its subsidiary bodies to take urgent measures to streamline their agendas and programmes of work and to bring about a substantial reduction in their requests for documents, bearing in mind the duration and the cycles of their meetings, and to report to the Council on measures adopted, taking strictly into account the guidelines set forth in the pertinent resolutions and decisions of the Council and the General Assembly.

In its decision 1983/163, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General (a) to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources; and (b) to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2007/L.2)

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fortieth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit a report to the Council on the work of each session.